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25 September 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

South Vietnam: (There are continuing indications that the Diem government is discredited among wide elements of the bureaucracy and the urban population.)

(Le Cong Thanh, long-time administrator general of South Vietnam's National Assembly, told a US Embassy officer on 23 September that public acceptance of government statements was "practically zero" and that people in Saigon, including assembly deputies and civil servants, wanted a change.)

(Thanh said he personally thought, however, that there is no alternative to Diem and that Nhu has valuable qualities. He advocated that Nhu should be given formal status as prime minister, that Madame Nhu be permanently exiled, and that elections be held for a genuinely free National Assembly, which would confirm appointments at the cabinet level.)

(The US Embassy has noted an accumulation of unconfirmed reports, from both student and labor circles, that students are fleeing the cities to avoid arrest. Some of the fugitives reportedly are joining the Viet Cong, partly to obtain arms.)

(According to some labor officials, many students, as well as other Vietnamese, recognize the Viet Cong military apparatus as Communist inspired, but do not so view the Liberation Front, the political arm of the Viet Cong, which purports to embrace a variety of political groupings.)

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Yemen: There is growing internal pressure for a drastic change in the leadership of the republican regime and for a reduction of Egyptian influence.

A recent "popular" conference, which was reportedly attended by 3,000 nonroyalist tribal, religious, and other notables, called for a supreme council of tribal chiefs to replace the present executive council and for the creation of a tribal army. The conference also asked for the withdrawal of Egyptian troops from noncombat areas, especially al-Hudaydah port.

The conference did not express opposition to the republic itself or profess any devotion to the old religious imamate, which the royalists wish to restore.

Demonstrations in support of the conference have more recently occurred in Sana and have stressed the theme, "Egyptians go home!"

The Egyptians appear to believe that the present regime is unworkable, and they may be preparing to reconstruct it on a broader basis. Yemeni President Sallal returned to Yemen from Cairo on 22 September, ostensibly to celebrate the anniversary of the Yemen revolution on 26 September. Egyptian Field Marshal Amer and another of Nasir's top aides, Anwar Sadat, are to arrive shortly.

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NOTE

Central African Republic: An abortive mutiny by two army companies protesting low pay was put down by President Dacko's French-led gendarmerie in Bangui on 22 September. The dissident troops are now under guard of loyal army forces, while gendarmerie units appear to have the general situation under control. This incident does not appear to have political overtones, but it is another symptom of the unrest which seems to be spreading through French-speaking Africa.

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